

Slide #1:

Euro Trip

Orientation Session

Presenters:

Mr. Rolf Hirschhorn

Mr. Jeff Huggins

Slide #2:

Statement of Intent

The Euro Trip was conceived for the following reasons:

- Give students a firsthand and real-life experience being in a foreign country.
- Provide students with an insight to and to create a better understanding of European culture.
- Give students a better understanding of their own culture.
- Enhance their view of world politics and break down cultural barriers.
- Give students a better understanding of their second language learning.
- To build students' confidence and grow as individuals.
- Travel changes lives.

Slide #3:

Student Application Process

Students need to complete a Participant Application form which consists of the following:

1. 200 word word processed paragraph
2. General information sheet (name, age, address etc.)
3. Traveler's Agreement form
4. Parent's Understanding form
5. Conditional Acceptance form
6. Informed Parent Consent form

Student applications will all be reviewed by the chaperones and consultation will also occur with the administration and staff.

Applications and tour info can be found on the VSS website under the 'News and Announcements' heading.

Slide #4-10: Application Package

One post-dated cheque for \$350.00. The cheque should be dated for October 1 and made out to VSS Euro Trip. You will pay EF directly once the student's application for participation has been approved.

Application packages should be handed in by October 1
Students will be informed of the acceptance by October 11

Slide #11:

Tour Eligibility (Who can come?)

Students must be:

1. In grades 10 to 12 in the 2025/2026 school year.
2. Enrolled in either German, French or Spanish, or have completed the grade 11 language.
3. In good standing with the school and community (behaviour and academic).
4. In the eyes of the chaperones, administration and staff is an individual who is deemed to be responsible and trustworthy.
5. If at any point prior to departure the student is deemed to have become a liability or violated the code of conduct, they shall be removed from the trip.

If there are too many acceptable candidates, priority will be given to grade 11 and 12 students.

Slide #12:

Tour Company

EF Educational Tours:

- Have been in the business of student travel for around 60 years
- Create trips specific to high school students.
- Have offices all over the world, with 24-hour assistance.
- Provide a competent and reliable service.
- Website: www.eftours.ca
- Have a comprehensive Safety Plan

Slide #13:

Preparing participants and their families for travel

Students will meet as a group once a month in either the evenings or after school to:

1. Learn about the countries and cities they will be visiting.
2. Participate in group activities.
3. Present power point assignments on places they will visit.
4. Learn about other aspects of travel to enhance their experience.

Closer to departure participants and a parent/parents will meet in the evening to listen to presentations on the following topics:

1. Money
2. Safety
3. Packing
4. Jet lag
5. Past participants presentation

***All meetings are mandatory for all participants.
Failure to attend can result in removal from the trip!***

Slide #14:

Trip Itinerary

Departure Date: Wednesday March 18, 2026

Return Date: Sunday March 29, 2026 (TBC)

Day 1: Depart from Kelowna

Day 2-4: Paris, France

Day 5: Strasbourg, France and Heidelberg, Germany

Day 6: Heidelberg, Germany and Lucerne, Switzerland

Day 7: Lucerne, Switzerland

Day 8: Verona and Venice, Italy

Day 9: Venice, Italy

Day 10: Venice to Munich, Germany

Day 11: Munich, Germany

Day 12: Return home

****Departure date can change due to flight availability****

Slide #15:

Trip Costs

- **12 Day Trip (return flight from Kelowna, tour director (24/7), breakfast, dinner, hotel and in country travel, admission to various sites, guided city tours)**

***includes airport taxes** **\$5745**

All inclusive Insurance package **\$199**
(medical, baggage, cancellation)

- **\$5944**

- **Early Enrolment Discount (Oct. 14)** **-\$300**

- **Total \$5644 (based on 35)**
(Oct 24 –Feb 26) \$321 X 17 months

School Based Costs (To be paid to VSS with application):

- **Tips (for tour guide, local guides and bus driver/misc. entrance fees)** **\$350**

GRAND TOTAL **\$5994 Student**
\$6964 (adult)*
(\$398 x 17) + \$350

***Any adult wishing to participate on this trip must complete a criminal records check and sign a parent participant agreement**

*****Approx. \$800 CDN spending money*****

Slide #14:

Payment Method

EF offers a monthly payment plan called AutoPay.

Participants pay EF directly through their bank account. You pay \$199 on enrollment and then pick if you want to pay bi-weekly or once a month on a date of your choice.

Payment per month is based on total amount owed to EF and divided by number of months before final payment is due (25 days prior to departure). Payment is made automatically every month on the day of your choice.

Applicants will write one check to VSS for \$350 to cover school end costs. This amount is due with the application form but will not be cashed until acceptance.

Slides #16 & 17:

Our Automatic Payment Plan offers you these benefits:

**One step and you're set**
Link either a debit card or chequing/savings account, then pick a date that best fits your schedule. That's when we'll withdraw your interest-free monthly or bi-weekly payments.

**Only \$199 down**
Pay only \$199 to reserve your EF tour spot when you select the Automatic Payment Plan upon booking.

**Choose your payment frequency**
When you wish to pay is up to you: Monthly or biweekly payments on your selected date.

**No payments for up to 45 days**
Once booked with \$199 down, your first interest-free payment is not due for up to 45 days.

**Interest free payments**
Automatic Payment Plan is fee-free. That means zero interest on your payments, zero fees, and zero hassles.†

More Ways to Pay

Wish to explore other payment methods? We also offer these options.

Pay in full

Pay the entire balance at the time of enrolling for your educational tour.

Payment methods accepted:

- Direct debit from chequing or savings account
- Visa or MasterCard credit card

Pay with Uplift

- Book now, pay over time
- Spread the cost of your trip over fixed and low monthly payments, even after the travel date
- Quick application
- No late fees
- No pre-payment penalties
- Easy monthly autopay

Learn more about Uplift

Manual Payment Plan

Receive invoices and make your payments in less frequent installments

Based on the date of enrolment, you could be invoiced up to 3 payments as listed below:

- \$199 deposit, and if applicable, the Global Travel Protection Plan and Cancel for any Reason Plan due upon enrolment
- \$500 due 30 days after enrolment
- \$500 due 90 days after enrolment
- Remaining balance due 110 days prior to departure

Payment methods accepted:

- Direct debit
- Chequing or savings account
- Credit card (Visa or MasterCard)

A non-refundable late fee of \$95 will be assessed for any missed payment

Slide #18:

EF Refund Policy

Standard Cancellation

110 days or more: refund minus \$399 fee and \$199 enrollment fee

109-45 days: 50% of program fee minus enrollment fee

44 days or less: No refund

https://cdn.brandfolder.io/Z4EERCK4/at/rxm47m9cmw8nnfcjbfnsbqv/S24_Booking_Conditions_ENGLISH.pdf

Slide #19:

Miscellaneous:

1. Fundraising
 2. Hotels/Meals
 3. Rooming: same gender and non-dating couples
 4. Typical day on tour and pace
 5. Chaperone ratio and who chaperones
 6. Don't let your friends stop you from going
 7. Parents wishing to participate must do a criminal record's check and sign a letter of parent participation
 8. Hand in your completed application to Mr. Hirschhorn (327)
 9. Application and tour info on VSS website
- Q & A